

under Ministry's scheme of 'Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects'.

Development of eco-tourism in Rajasthan

701. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLАО: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that eco-tourism is being promoted on priority;
- (b) if so, the details of the sites selected, especially in the State of Rajasthan;
- (c) the criteria for selection of eco-tourism sites and the agencies involved in the selection process;
- (d) the partnership between Centre and States in developing eco-tourism sites including providing the financial, technical and other support to the States; and
- (e) the expected increase in tourism inflow, domestic tourists and foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism promotes eco-tourism on priority. Development of tourism including eco-tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT. Governments. Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the States/UT Governments for the project proposals, including eco-tourism projects, prioritized in consultation with them. Such prioritized projects, including the eco-tourism projects for the States/UTs, including Rajasthan for Central financial assistance during the current financial year are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to Unstarred Question 697(C) and (d)J.

(e) In view of the present buoyancy in travel and tourism, the international and domestic tourism is expected to grow at an average rate of 13-15% per annum.

Inter-linking of river and flood water

702. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a Master Plan for inter-linking of rivers and flood water within ten years as directed by the Supreme Court by its order dated the 31st October, 2002; and

(b) if so, how much plan allocation is being provided in the Draft Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan River Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Report (FRs). An affidavit giving information about National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development was filed by the Union of India in the Supreme Court on 28th October, 2002 in writ Petition No. 512 of 2002 regarding Networking of Rivers. After perusal of the aforesaid affidavit, the Hon'ble Court observed on 31 st October, 2002 as under:

"We do expect that the programme when drawn up would try and ensure that the link projects are completed within a reasonable time of not more than ten years"

Accordingly Union of India filed an Affidavit before Hon'ble Supreme Court giving details of milestone dates/time table for accomplishing various activities related with inter-linking of rivers.

(b) NWDA has requested an outlay of Rs 241 crore for Eleventh Five Year Plan.

implementation of pilot project for water bodies

703. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a pilot project for the revival of degraded water bodies in the country, if so, the details of the objectives of the pilot project,